

# SENATE BILL 650

E4

2lr2679  
CF 2lr1873

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By: **Senators Ramirez, Colburn, Forehand, Garagiola, Manno, Montgomery, Robey, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Impersonating a Police Officer – WMATA Metro Transit**  
3 **Police**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from falsely representing that the person is a  
5 member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)  
6 Metro Transit Police under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from  
7 having, using, wearing, or displaying a certain identification or simulation or  
8 imitation of a certain identification of a member of the WMATA Metro Transit  
9 Police except under certain circumstances; authorizing a person to have a  
10 certain identification with the appropriate authority of the WMATA Metro  
11 Transit Police; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to  
12 impersonating a member of the WMATA Metro Transit Police.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Public Safety  
15 Section 3–502  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2011 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 3–502.

22 (a) In this section, “police officer” means a member of:

23 (1) a police force of this State or another state;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)     a police force of a county or municipal corporation of this State or  
2 another state;

3                   (3)     the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

4                   (4)     the United States Park Police;

5                   **(5)     THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT**  
6 **AUTHORITY (WMATA) METRO TRANSIT POLICE;**

7                   **[(5)] (6)**     the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

8                   **[(6)] (7)**     the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

9                   **[(7)] (8)**     a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which  
10 are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted  
11 of federal crimes.

12           (b)     A person may not, with fraudulent design on person or property, falsely  
13 represent that the person is a police officer, special police officer, sheriff, deputy  
14 sheriff, or constable.

15           (c)     Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person may not  
16 have, use, wear, or display a uniform, shield, button, ornament, badge, identification,  
17 or shoulder patch adopted by the Department of State Police to be worn by its  
18 members, insignia, or emblem of office, as is worn by a police officer, sheriff, deputy  
19 sheriff, or constable.

20           (d)     A person may not, for the purpose of deception, have a simulation or  
21 imitation of an article described in subsection (c) of this section as is worn by a police  
22 officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable.

23           (e)     A person may have, use, wear, or display an article described in  
24 subsection (c) of this section with the appropriate authority of:

25                   (1)     the Secretary of State Police;

26                   (2)     a police force of another state;

27                   (3)     the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City;

28                   (4)     the chief of police of a county or municipal corporation of this State  
29 or another state;

30                   (5)     a sheriff or deputy sheriff;

31                   (6)     a constable;

1 (7) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

2 (8) the United States Park Police;

3 **(9) THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT**  
4 **AUTHORITY (WMATA) METRO TRANSIT POLICE;**

5 **[(9)] (10)** the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

6 **[(10)] (11)** the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

7 **[(11)] (12)** a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which  
8 are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted  
9 of federal crimes.

10 (f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on  
11 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding  
12 \$2,000 or both.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2012.